

## **Libertarians ask: Why are Congressmen sending their children to private schools?**

### ***U.S. Senators are four times more likely to reject public schools***

WASHINGTON, DC — Public schools: They're good enough for *your* kids — but don't expect a Congressman to send *his* kids there.

That's what a new study from the Heritage Foundation reveals — that U.S. Senators are four times more likely than average Americans to send their children to private school, and U.S. House members are three times more likely.

"Congressmen get a failing grade when it comes to confidence in public schools," said Steve Dasbach, the national chairman of the Libertarian Party. "When they get a chance to vote with their children's education, they vote *against* government-run schools."

**The Heritage Foundation found that only 14% of Americans send their children to private schools — but a whopping 50% of U.S. Senators do so, and 34.4% of U.S. House members.**

"Congress thinks government-run schools are a great idea for *your* kids — but not for theirs," said Dasbach. "For members of Congress, the three R's of education are not reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic — they're retreating, requiring, and rejecting. Congressmen are **retreating** to private schools, **requiring** us to pay for a failing government-run school system — and **rejecting** the notion that they're hypocrites for doing so."

**Ironically, noted Dasbach, those Congressmen who know the most about education avoid it most fervently.** A full 40% of the members of the House Education Committee send their children to private schools.

"And no wonder. They're in a position to see *exactly* how bad government-run schools really are," he said. "The message from these Congressmen is: We like the public school system so much that we'll tax you billions of dollars to pay for it; we'll pass laws to mandate standardized national testing and curriculums; and we'll increase the Department of Education's budget every year. But we don't like public schools enough to send our children there."

**But, asked Dasbach, who can blame them?** "Millions of average Americans would make the same choice — if the government wasn't taking close to half their incomes in taxes," he said.

"Politicians are saying: Do as I *say*, not as I *do*. But if Congressmen aren't willing to risk their own children's futures on a failing public education system — why should anyone else?"

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